

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A process for preparing a foreign protein comprising the steps of culturing a bacterium containing a cystein synthase (*cysK*) gene and a gene
5 encoding the foreign protein in a culture medium thereby producing the foreign protein; and harvesting the foreign protein .

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium is one which has been transformed with a vector containing both the *cysK* gene and the gene
10 encoding the foreign protein.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium is one which has been transformed with a vector containing the *cysK* gene and a vector containing the gene encoding a foreign protein.
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4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*.

5. The process according to claim 1 , wherein the foreign protein is a
20 serine-rich protein.

6. The process according to claim 5, wherein the serine-rich protein is leptin or IL-12p40(interleukin 12 β chain).

7. A recombinant vector comprising both a *cysK* gene and a gene encoding a foreign protein.

8. A bacterium transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 5 7.

9. A bacterium transformed with a vector containing a *cysK* gene and a vector containing a gene encoding a foreign protein.

10 10. The recombinant vector according to claim 7, which is selected from plasmid pAC104CysK as shown in Fig. 2, or plasmid pEDIL-12p40 as shown in Fig. 3.

11. The process according to claim 2, where in the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*. 15

12. The process according to claim 3, where in the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*.

13. The process according to claim 2, wherein the foreign protein is a serine-rich protein. 20

14. The process according to claim 3, wherein the foreign protein is a serine-rich protein.